IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly rewrite claims 1-4 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A hand-held analyte test instrument comprising:

a housing;

a barcode reader disposed in the housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip configured to receive an analyte;

a user interface capable of activating said barcode reader, said user interface further comprising a numeric keypad and at least one function button, said at least one function button capable of carrying out at least one of the functions of activating/deactivating power, selecting test or menu modes, editing entries, terminating entries, and activating a barcode reader as a substitute for numerical entry;

a port disposed in the housing for receiving the test strip;

electronic circuitry in electrical communication with the port for processing an analyte signal received from the test strip and generating analyte data therefrom;

a display in electrical communication with the circuitry for displaying certain analyte data; and

a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a host computer via a data communications network, wherein the circuitry automatically uploads the analyte data to the host computer upon connection thereto.

2. (Twice amended) A hand-held analyte test instrument comprising:

a housing;

a port disposed in the housing for receiving a test strip configured to receive an analyte;

a barcode reader disposed in the housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip configured to receive an analyte;

a user interface capable of allowing an operator to enter data, said user interface comprising a numeric keypad and at least one function button, said at least one function button capable of carrying out at least one of the functions of activating/deactivating power, selecting test or menu modes, editing entries, terminating entries, and activating a barcode reader as a substitute for numerical entry;

electronic circuitry in electrical communication with the port for processing an analyte signal received from the test strip and generating analyte data therefrom;

a display in electrical communication with the circuitry for displaying certain analyte data;

a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a power source;

a battery compartment formed in the housing and comprising a pair of electrical contacts for providing power from a battery to the electronic circuitry and a pair of recharge contacts; and

a rechargeable battery pack disposed in the battery compartment and comprising (1) a rechargeable battery and (2) a battery holder in which the rechargeable battery is disposed, a bus bar disposed on the battery holder and in electrical communication with the pair of recharge contacts for recharging the battery when the instrument is connected to the power source.

3. (Twice amended) A docking station for receiving a hand-held analyte test instrument, the docking station comprising:

a connector electrically connectable to the instrument for receiving analyte data therefrom;

a switch in electrical communication with the connector;

a first data port in electrical communication with the switch and being electrically connectable to a computer;

a second data port in electrical communication with the switch and being electrically connectable to a peripheral device; and

a control mechanism for controlling the switch to selectively pass the analyte data to the computer via the first data port or to the peripheral device via the second data port; said docking station being configured to pass data

between said analyte test instrument and said first data port when said docking station is in a default condition, and

circuitry to prevent overcharging.

4. (Twice amended) A method of managing data for a plurality of analyte test instruments connected to a data communication network comprising the steps of:

detecting via a host computer the connection of each analyte test instrument of said plurality of analyte test instruments to the data communication network, each of said analyte test instruments of said plurality of analyte test instruments including a test strip port, which accepts test strips for determining the level of analyte in a sample taken from a patient;

uploading data received from each analyte test instrument of said plurality of analyte test instruments to the host computer; and

processing the uploaded data on the host computer for operator review; and downloading configuration data from the host computer to each analyte test instrument of said plurality of analyte test instruments, the downloaded data comprising instrument-specific setup and control data.

Cancel claim 7.